



Week #1: Made for Knowing Christ

Series Theme Verse:

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for.

Ephesians 1:11 (MSG)

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Through Christ, God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing that heaven has to offer. Before the creation of the world, he chose us through Christ to be holy and perfect in his presence. Because of his love he had already decided to adopt us through Jesus Christ. He freely chose to do this so that the kindness he had given us in his dear Son would be praised and given glory.

Through the blood of his Son, we are set free from our sins. God forgives our failures because of his overflowing kindness. He poured out his kindness by giving us every kind of wisdom and insight when he revealed the mystery of his plan to us. He had decided to do this through Christ. He planned to bring all of history to its goal in Christ. Then Christ would be the head of everything in heaven and on earth. God also decided ahead of time to choose us through Christ according to his plan, which makes everything work the way he intends. He planned all of this so that we who had already focused our hope on Christ would praise him and give him glory.

You heard and believed the message of truth, the Good News that he has saved you. In him you were sealed with the Holy Spirit whom he promised. This Holy Spirit is the guarantee that we will receive our inheritance. We have this guarantee until we are set free to belong to him. God receives praise and glory for this.

Ephesians 1:3-14 (GW)

In Christ:

- Our _____ precedes our _____. (vv. 3-6)
- Our _____ comes from his _____. (vv. 7-12)

- We _____ it when we _____ it. (vv. 13-14)

Discussion questions:

1. Our anchor passage reminds us that our identity in Christ precedes anything that we do for Christ. In what ways have you been tempted to define yourself by what you *do* rather than who you *are* in Christ? How does remembering that you are chosen and loved *before* you do anything change the way you approach your family, work, school, or social networks?
2. Paul reminds us, among many things, that we are blessed, chosen, holy, set free, forgiven, and so on. Which of these truths is hardest for you to fully believe about yourself? Why do you think that particular truth is hard for you to embrace?
3. What practice or rhythm can you engage in to help you root your identity more deeply in Christ this week?

Recommended Resources:

- The Bible Project: [Ephesians Overview](#)
- [You Are More Than What You've Been Told](#), by Hosanna Wong
- [What God Says About You](#), by Hosanna Wong
- [The Vision of Ephesians](#), by N.T. Wright
- [Life Lessons from Ephesians: Where You Belong](#), by Max Lucado
- [Ephesians](#), by N.T. Wright

(MSG) The Message

(GW) God's Word Translation

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Ephesians 1:3-14 (GW)

In Christ:

- Our identity precedes our activity. (vv. 3-6)
- Our status comes from his sacrifice. (vv. 7-12)
- We receive it when we believe it. (vv. 13-14)

Discussion questions:

1. Our anchor passage reminds us that our identity in Christ precedes anything that we do for Christ. In what ways have you been tempted to define yourself by what you *do* rather than who you *are* in Christ? How does remembering that you are chosen and loved *before* you do anything change the way you approach your family, work, school, or social networks?

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